

Year 2002 Forest Legacy Application Instructions

Purpose of Forest Legacy- *The Indiana Forest Legacy program uses federal funds, and local matching funds, to purchase development rights and conservation easements on environmentally important forests in targeted areas of Indiana so these threatened remain intact and continue to provide traditional forest benefits. These forests remain in private ownership, except for the conveyed easement items (e.g. development rights) which become state owned and protected.*

Deadlines: January 31, 2002 for priority consideration in 2002. However, applications are accepted anytime.

Submit completed application to:
(Please, retain a copy for your files.)

Dan Ernst
Forest Legacy Coordinator
IDNR – Division of Forestry
402W. Washington St., Rm. 296W
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Questions: Forest Legacy Coordinator
317-232-4101
dernst@dnr.state.in.us

Instructions

Page 1. Primarily seeks information on the ownership, location, and size of the parcel being nominated. The final section of page 1 seeks information about your ownership objectives. Please, describe briefly your property objectives.

Page 2. The information you provide on page two is heavily used in preliminary scoring and ranking of your proposal. This section helps to identify nominated parcels that have state, regional, or even national significance. Please, refer to the “Ecological Criteria”, and “Self Scoring” insert for information on the scoring system and further description of the headings of this part of the application. These descriptions should be helpful in composing your responses.

Question “I” of page two is your assessment of how the nominated property is threatened by conversion to non-forest uses. Threat examples include: clearing for agriculture, housing, breakup into small unmanageable parcels, non native species invasion, coal or mineral mining, zoned for development, and many more.

On the bottom of page 2 you may add any additional comments about your property or your proposal that may be helpful in the evaluation of your application and property. Additional pages may be added if you need more space.

Page 3. This very important section ask you to identify what parts of your ownership you are willing to sell or convey to the Forest Legacy Program. It is not a commitment form, but should be considered very seriously. It will affect the desirability if your parcel and likely its appraised value. Please, indicate whether you wish to SELL, KEEP or are UNSURE each of the interests listed on this page. Do not leave any item unchecked. You may add other interests to this section if needed.

SELL means this is an interest you are interested in selling this right to the program. KEEP means this is an interest you wish to retain and keep full control. UNSURE means you need more information or have not yet decided on this interest. The accompanying brochure, “Indiana Forest Legacy”, may help you in answering these questions.

Page 4. This section seeks financial information about your parcel and the parts of your ownership you are willing to sell or donate to the Forest Legacy Program. The information provided will also be used in scoring of your application and is held in confidence.

Property appraisals are not required to complete this section, but may be helpful in your estimates and deliberations. Any offer by the Forest Legacy Program to purchase easements will hire and utilize an appraisal conducted in accordance with federal yellow book appraisal guidelines. These appraisals are coordinated through the Indiana Department of Natural Resources near the end of the Forest Legacy parcel selection process.

The final part of page 4 asks for your approval for the Forest Legacy site reviewers to visit your property and to attest the information provided in your application. It is not necessary that all property owners sign this application. However, the person signing this application must have legal authority to represent this property and the owners.

“Self Scoring” Insert: This 2 page form allows you to do a quick scoring of your parcel. It is very similar to the score sheet used to prioritize all the applications received. **Please, complete this score sheet to the best of your ability and submit a copy with your application.**

APPLICATION PACKET CHECKLIST:

With your application, please submit each of the following items. If you cannot locate these items call the Forest Legacy coordinator for substitutes.

- _____ A thoroughly completed and signed application form
- _____ A completed “self scoring sheet”
- _____ Copy of road map indicating location of the property
- _____ Copy of the county plat map showing location of the property. Please outline the property and the proposed Forest Legacy area.
- _____ Copy of forest management plan, if available
- _____ Aerial photo of the property (Available at your local Farm Services Agency or Natural Resources Conservation Service office. Photos may also be available from the county auditor or surveyors office). Please outline property and proposed Forest Legacy area.
- _____ Map identifying dams, underground fuel tanks, dumps or waste disposal sites on the property
- _____ Map or list of permanent improvements on the nominated parcel (e.g. Roads, buildings, ponds, dams, wells, and other structures and approximate acreage occupied by improvements)
- _____ Any written comments you wish to provide in addition to the application.

Please Note: All submitted materials become property of the State and are non-returnable.

Disclosure of this information is voluntary. However, failure to provide all of the requested information will make it very difficult for your application and the property to be properly evaluated and scored.

10/11/01